

AUTOMATED TUBE HANDLER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

An automated tube handler system that combines a robotic tube handler with a controller board control unit for operating the displacement mechanism and tube sorting procedures in communication with a host computer that has a tube management program for user control of the tube handler system, the robotic tube handler having a frame-like bed tray that supports a plurality of standard tube racks arranged in an array and having a platform with a tube identification station, a parking holder for a limited number of tubes, and a shuttle holder for transport of a number of tubes to an adjacent robotic tube handler, the XYZ displacement mechanism having a tube pick for selectively removing a tube from any position in the tube rack array and placing the tube in any other position in the array or in one of the holders.